Implementation of PM's package

*358. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made on the implementation of the Prime Minister's package of Rs.17,000 crores for alleviating the agrarian crisis in 31 suicide prone districts of Vidarbha, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala;

(b) whether a task force headed by Shri R. Radhakrishna, Director of Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research has submitted its report and has observed many shortcomings on the implementation of this package; and

(c) if so, a summary of the salient observations in the report?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Against the approved allocation of Rs.16978.69 crore, expenditure amounting to Rs.9209.34 crore has been incurred upto 27th July, 2007 for implementation of the rehabilitation package for the farmers in 31 identified suicide prone districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) The Expert Group on Agricultural Indebtedness headed by Prof. R. Radhakrishna, Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research has submitted its report to the Government. In its report, the Expert Group has observed that the rehabilitation package is comprehensive in terms of coverage and problems addressed but it suffers from the following deficiencies in design and implementation.

(i) The design of some of the schemes is not based on the felt needs of households.

(ii) There is a lack of region and household specific flexibility built into these measures.

(iii) There are implementation and monitoring problems due to lack of proper institutional arrangements.

The Expert Group has observed that the implementation and monitoring of relief measures for distressed farmers envisaged in the rehabilitation package needs to be addressed carefully and has recommended that the needs of individual households should be taken into account with necessary flexibility and further that follow-up steps should be taken to relieve the families trom distress. It has also recommended continuation of 'Non-Credit Component' of the package for two more years.

Low production of pulses and oilseeds

†*359. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the crisis of pulses and oil seeds in the country is becoming serious day by day;

(b) whether it is also a fact that after the first Green Revolution, there is a gradual decrease in the production of pulses and oilseeds in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.